5-30-75 N.Y.T.

'61 MEMO IS CITED ON C.I.A.-MAFIA TIE

Hoover Is Said to Have Told Robert Kennedy of Link to 2 Racket Figures

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 29—Robert F. Kennedy knew as early as May 1, 1961, that the Central Intelligence Agency was secretly dealing with the Mafia, according to a Federal Bureau of Investigation memorandum now in the hands of the Rockefeller Commission and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The discovery of this new memorandum, by means the disclosure of another senior member of the Administration of President Kennedy, implicates his brother the Attorney General, ordered or approved the alleged C.I.A. plot to kill Fidel Castro, Premier of Cuba.

It is part of a growing number of indications mentioned in press reports over the last few weeks, that a plot to assassinate Mr. Castro was discussed at the highest levels of the Government in the early Kennedy years and that, with or without approval, the intelligence agency recruited two Cuban exiles to attempt one such assassination.

According to sources familiar with the investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the F.B.I., wrote a detailed secret memorandum to Robert Kennedy in May, 1961, saying that during an investigation of two racket figures, John Roselli and John Rosselli, agents had turned up an apparent connection with the C.I.A.

Word on Assassination

The memorandum, one source said, went on to note that the F.B.I. requested and received a full C.I.A. briefing about the agency's dealings with Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli. The memorandum, this source said, never mentioned the words "assassination" or "eliminate," a euphemism for assassination often used in spy circles. But the source said Mr. Hoover characterized the suspected C.I.A. activities with Mr. Giancana and Mr. Roselli as "dirty business."

The memorandum is dated almost a year before Robert Kennedy was given a briefing by the intelligence agency on this same subject.

In that briefing, covered in testimony before the Rockefeller commission and in sworn statements, according to reliable sources, the Attorney General reportedly learned of the C.I.A.'s dealings with the Mafia for the first time and admonished the agency official briefing him that the next time the C.I.A. wanted to deal with organized crime it should come to him first.

As a result of this May, 1962, briefing, the Attorney General gave Mr. Hoover further details on the C.I.A. operation and Mr. Hoover wrote a memorandum that was kept in F.B.I. files and was known only to select members of the top echelon of bureau for many years.

Concern on Blackmail

That memorandum, authoritative sources disclosed last week, is also in the hands of the Rockefeller commission, which is looking into intelligence operations. It reportedly contained Mr. Hoover's concern that Mr. Giancana could "blackmail" the United States Government.

The Associated Press reported last week what appears to be another piece of this puzzle. It quoted authoritative sources who said the Rockefeller commission had obtained the minutes of a meeting on Aug. 10, 1962, attended by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, John A. McCone, then Director of Central Intelligence, and McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's adviser for national security affairs. The meeting, the A.P. report said, included a "discussion" of killing Mr. Castro.

One source said the A.P. story "the matter was immediately dismissed," but the wire service quoted two other sources who said that a memo was written two days later by Mr. McNamara directing the C.I.A. to develop contingency plans for the "elimination" of Mr. Castro.

Several highly placed sources within the C.I.A. and other intelligence circles of the government in the days have said [illegible] after the Bay of Pigs [illegible] called in April, 1961, [illegible] to get rid of Mr. Castro. For instance, [illegible] Administration [illegible] a source described this as [illegible] failure of the Kennedy Administration.

Authority Unclear

Most intelligence sources of the period appear to be anxious to stress that no plan for either an assassination, kidnapping or coup d'etat would have been brought to an operational level without the authority of the Administration, but the authority required is by no means clear.

For instance, one source said that the top of the May, 1961, memorandum discussed this matter. A note had been found in what he said was Robert Kennedy's handwriting saying, "Have this followed up vigorously," and that the memorandum bore the initials of Hoover "RFK" AH. The handwritten note had apparently been retyped by someone in the same period as the memo was written, the source said, apparently to make the note clear to readers. But there is no evidence yet public that it was "followed up vigorously" or what action was taken, if any.

A spokesman for the Senate committee declined to comment on whether the committee had any specific evidence.

This has been the committee's general response. But the spokesman went on to point